

The Roadrunner



Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

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**Monday, December 10, 2012, 7:00 p.m.,
Centennial Museum, at UTEP
Annual Holiday Meeting**



Bring your favorite photos from the past year and join us for our annual holiday meeting and photo fest.

Everyone is invited to bring a snack to share but it is not necessary, there will certainly be plenty of goodies to go around.

THE ELECTRONIC ROADRUNNER

THE ROADRUNNER is now also available electronically as a PDF file. If you would like to receive our newsletter in this way via e-mail, just send a note to John Sproul at jsproul@utep.edu.

**Monday, January 21, 2013, 7:00 p.m.,
Centennial Museum, at UTEP
Nature Video**

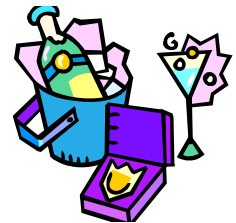


The January meeting will feature a selection from a series of wildlife documentaries.



More information will be sent out prior to the January meeting.

**Annual Awards Dinner
Saturday, February 16, 2013
Opus World Bistro
7128 Mesa Street**



Jim Paton will be giving a presentation on his recent trip to Australia. More details for the Awards Dinner will be on the front page of the next **Roadrunner** as well as on the website. Please rsvp to Janet Perkins, 581-2849

Save the date and see you there!



The Audubon Foundation of Texas represents Texas Audubon chapters in the Earth Share of Texas payroll-deduction plan for charitable giving.

Earth Share OF TEXAS

Membership: Roxanne Schroeder, 533-0061
Programs: vacant
Conservation: Luis Sanchez, 422-5530
Field Trips: Mark Perkins 637-3521
Hospitality: Janet Perkins, 581-2849

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

Officers

President: Eddie Chew, 587- 9589
Vice President: Scott Cutler, 581-6071
Secretary: Jane Fowler, 598-2448
Treasurer: Lucretia Chew, 587-9589

Committees

Publicity: Janet Perkins, 581-2849
Education: Kathleen Whelen, 751-2408
Publications: Jane Fowler, 598-2448
Ways & Means: vacant
Sanctuary: John Sproul, 545-5157

The CBC is now FREE! Important and Exciting news for the Christmas Bird Count program



After nearly two years of internal discussions, budget modeling, head-scratching, and intense decision-making, two major changes will come to the Christmas Bird Count program effective with the upcoming 113th Count in December, 2012.

First, the CBC is now a free program. Audubon will no longer charge the \$5.00 fee of field participants.

Second, to minimize the effects of the loss of fee income, *American Birds* will no longer be printed on paper and mailed to participants, and Audubon will move to an online delivery of the summary results of the CBC.

Log in to [iGive.com](http://www.iGive.com) when you do your Holiday Shopping
It is free for you and cash for the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society
<http://www.iGive.com>

<http://www.trans-pecos-audubon.org>

Conservation Organizations

Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue
<http://www.cdwr.org>

El Paso Zoo 521-1850
www.elpasozoo.org

Keystone Heritage Park 581-7920
www.keystoneheritagepark.org

Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park
(575) 524-3334 www.asombro.org

Friends of Rio Bosque 747-8663
www.riobosque.org

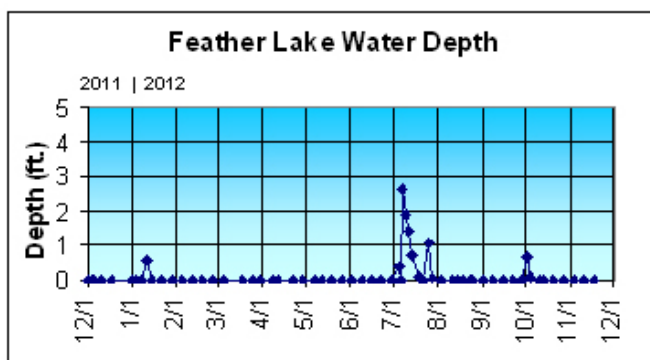
Southwest Environmental Center
(575) 522-5552
www.wildmesquite.org

Franklin Mt. Wilderness Coalition
www.franklinmountains.org/

AT FEATHER LAKE

Feather Lake is still dry and still closed to public use. It has now been almost 2 years since the lake was last open to the public. Conditions have been only slightly better this year than last. In 2011, the lake was completely dry for 9 months and mostly dry for the other 3. So far this year, it has been completely dry for 5 months, mostly dry for 5 and mostly wet for 1 (July).

Still, work at our sanctuary continues. Join us for our next workday to help carry out the mattress that floated in with the water in July and to perform other exciting tasks. It takes place **Sat., December 8** starting at **2 p.m.** Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave.



Overnight Field Trips.

Because of the expense of gas, and the time and preparation involved for the overnight field trips, it's important that you let Mark Perkins know in advance if you are planning to go on one of the overnight trips.

If there aren't at least 5 people going on a trip, it will be a no-go. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Audubon at RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PARK



Rio Bosque has water, and duck numbers are building daily. For up-to-date information on the park's birds, check www.riobosque.org. Upcoming free walking tours:

8 a.m., Sun., Dec 9 (Bird tour)
3 p.m. Sat., Dec 15 (Introductory tour)

8 a.m. Sat., Jan 5 (Bird tour)
9 a.m. Sun., Jan 20 (Introductory tour)

The meeting place is a bridge crossing the Riverside Canal. To get there from I-10, take Americas Ave. (Loop 375) to Pan American Drive, turn left onto Pan American and travel 1.5 miles.

Information: 747-8663.



Notes From the Field

With Deepest Sympathy

We regret to announce the death of Kevin Von Finger, Texas Master Naturalist, dedicated conservationist and friend to all. Our thoughts and prayers are with him, his family and those who had the privilege of knowing him.

Kevin was a local ecologist and biologist, who served on several city and county environmental boards. He died on Nov. 14, 2012 in El Paso, Texas. He had degrees from Knox College in Illinois and the University of Texas at El Paso.

He worked as senior ecologist for the Directorate of Environment at Fort Bliss for almost 28 years and retired from there in 2003. Kevin was an inspiration and will be missed.



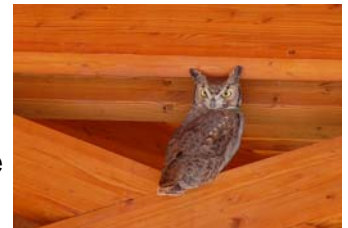
Saturday, November 10, 2012 Dripping Springs Natural Area.



Lewis' Woodpecker
John Groves

We started out the trip at Vinton, TX where we had a good view of Lewis's Woodpecker! From there we went to Dripping Springs. Despite the wind and cold temps, we had a nice hike up to the weeping wall, where we had desert specialties such as the Black-throated Sparrow, Canyon Towhee, Pyrrhuloxia, Rock Wren and Curve-billed Thrasher, along with Western Scrub-Jay and Cassin's Finch.

We had a lunch at La Cueva and ended the trip at the Farm and Ranch Museum in Las Cruces to see two Great Horned Owls in the rafters at the main building. Good trip and good turn out.



Great Horned Owl
Steve Vinson

Looking for some computer/armchair Holiday Birding? You may be interested in Birding Adventures TV website: www.birdingadventures.com

The program has a strong conservation emphasis and highlights the importance and urgency of preserving the planet's incredible birdlife. National Audubon Society is a sponsor of Birding Adventures TV. You can even sign up for an electronic Life List on this website.

Many of our readers opt to receive **THE ROAD-RUNNER** electronically as a PDF file. By going paperless in this way, you can help us reduce costs associated with printing and mailing our newsletter. If you would like to discontinue receiving the print version of THE ROADRUNNER and only receive it via e-mail, just send a note to John Sproul at jsproul@utep.edu.

Albertson's ...

Every time you swipe your Community Partners Card, you earn cash for the Audubon Society.



Now isn't that a good reason to shop at Albertsons?

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society
<http://www.trans-pecos-audubon.org>

Field Trips

Bosque del Apache

Normally the Bosque del Apache trip for Sandhill Cranes and geese is in January, but we are scheduling a new, exciting trip to the Phoenix area on the Martin Luther King 3-day weekend in January 2013, so the Bosque del Apache trip will be on December 14, 15 & 16, 2012.



Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge and Rosy-Finch Field Trip Friday, Saturday and Sunday, December 14, 15 and 16, 2012.

Get ready for Sandhill Cranes, Snow Geese and ducks by the thousands at Bosque del Apache NWR, which is one of the more popular national wildlife refuges in the country. Bald Eagles are commonly seen there as well.

We will bird the refuge on Saturday. Weather permitting, Saturday afternoon we will head to Albuquerque, stay the night and Sunday morning go up to Sandia Peak to see the rosy-finches. On past trips, we literally had hundreds of rosy-finches to view.

Advance reservations are required, and we need at least 5 people signed up for the trip. The fly-out of the thousands of birds is spectacular! This is always a great trip with lots to see! Those interested in making the trip will receive a detailed itinerary. We hope you can join us. Contact Mark at 637-3521.

Phoenix and the Maricopa County Area January 18-21, 2013 (Martin Luther King Holiday 3-day weekend). This is a new trip!

Feel free to join us for any part of the weekend. We have just returned from this area, and we checked out many great birding spots for winter birding. Riparian areas that we will visit include Gilbert Water Ranch, Veterans Oasis Park, Tres Rios (a permit is required, so we will be applying for one), and the Glendale Recharge Ponds.

We will also bird and will have guides in the following areas: Boyce Thompson Arboretum and the Desert Botanical Garden. Other locations include the world-famous thrasher site, which is the best place in the US to see the Le Conte's Thrasher plus 3 other species of thrashers, and Encanto Park where flocks of Rosy-faced Lovebirds have been seen. Birds we hope to see include: wintering loons, pelicans, wintering geese, cranes, swans and ducks, Bald Eagles, wintering shorebirds, wading birds, whistling-ducks, raptors and wintering passerines.



A couple of these locations have entrance fees. We researched accommodations in an area centrally located, with the best prices, and because it will be high season in that area, it will be necessary to make hotel reservations as soon as possible. There are also RV parks available.

We need to have at least 5 people signed up for the trip. Those interested will receive a detailed itinerary. Contact Mark for reservations at 637-3521. We are excited about this trip - the area is beautiful, with lots of birding opportunities!

El Paso/Trans-Pecos
Audubon Society
P.O. Box 972441
El Paso, Texas 79997

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Return service request

**National Audubon Society
Chapter Membership Application.**

Yes, I'd like to join. Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Chapter.

Send AUDUBON magazine and my membership card to address below.

Check for \$20.00 enclosed payable to National Audubon Society

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State ____ Zip _____

**National Audubon Society
Chapter Membership Data Center
PO Box 422250
Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250**

Local Chapter Code C1ZW100Z

Dates to Remember Call Mark Perkins for details 637-3521

December

Mon 3: **Board Meeting**
Sat 8: **Feather Lake**
9 & 15: **Rio Bosque**
Mon 10: **Holiday Meeting**
14-16: **Bosque del Apache**

January

5 & 20: **Rio Bosque**
Mon 14 : **Board Meeting**
18-21: **Phoenix Area**
Mon 21: **General Meeting**

February

Mon 11: **Board Meeting**
Sat 16: **Awards Dinner**

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Local **Chapter Only Membership** Your \$15.00 will help support chapter activities & you'll receive

The Roadrunner delivered to your mailbox.

Make checks payable to the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mail to: EPTP Audubon P.O. Box 972441 El Paso, Texas 79997

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